

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification by inserting the following before the first line thereof:

This is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/813,982 filed March 22, 2001, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Page 11, third full paragraph:

The first cleaning unit 148 has a duct 152 having a first opening 154a defined in an upstream side wall thereof for introducing therethrough a stimuable phosphor sheet S that is fed by the circulating feed system 86 and a second opening 154b defined in a downstream wall thereof for discharging a stimuable phosphor sheet S from the ~~[[dust]]~~ duct 152 toward the reading unit 82.

Page 12, fourth full paragraph:

The first cleaning unit 148 will be described in detail below. As described above, the first cleaning unit 148 has the duct or housing 152. As shown in FIG. 6, the duct 152 comprises an upper housing member 200 and a lower housing member 202 which define therebetween the first opening 154a for introducing the stimuable phosphor sheet S into the duct 152 and the second opening 154b for discharging the stimuable phosphor sheet S from the ~~[[dust]]~~ duct 152 toward the reading unit 82. The duct 152 houses therein a first brush roller pair 204 disposed between the upper housing member 200 and the lower housing member 202 and facing the first opening 154a, and a second brush roller pair 206 disposed downstream of the first brush roller pair 204 between the upper housing member 200 and the lower housing member 202 and facing

the second opening 154b. The first brush roller pair 204 comprises a first brush roller 208a and a second brush roller 208b which are disposed parallel to each other with their brush bristles having distal ends held in contact with each other. Similarly, the second brush roller pair 206 comprises a third brush roller 210a and a fourth brush roller 210b which are disposed parallel to each other with their brush bristles having distal ends held in contact with each other. The first brush roller pair 204 and the second brush roller pair 206 have their axes extending parallel to each other and perpendicularly to the direction in which the stimuable phosphor sheet S is fed through the duct 152.

Page 18, first full paragraph:

A drive shaft 262 which can be rotated by a motor M, not shown, supports on an end thereof a third pulley 264 that is operatively coupled to the drive shaft of the motor by a belt 265. The other end of the drive shaft 262 supports thereon a fourth pulley 266 and a fifth pulley 268. A first belt 270 is trained around the second pulley 260 and the fourth pulley 266, and a second belt 272 is trained around the first pulley 254 and the fifth pulley 268. One-way clutches 253, 259 are incorporated as clutch means respectively in the first pulley 254 and the second pulley 260. These one-way clutches 253, 259 transmit rotational power when the first pulley 254 and the second pulley 260 rotate in only one direction, and do not transmit rotational power when they rotate in the other direction. When the drive shaft 262 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow by the motor via the belt 265 and the pulley 264, the fourth brush roller 210b is rotated by the first belt 270 in the direction indicated by the arrow (see also FIG. 6). The second brush roller 208b is rotated by the gear 252 meshing with the gear 258 in the direction indicated

by the arrow, which is opposite to the direction in which the fourth brush roller 210b is rotated. The gear 263 meshing with the gear 259 rotates the third brush roller 210a in the direction opposite to the direction in which the fourth brush roller 210b is rotated. When the drive shaft 262 is rotated in the reverse direction, i.e., in the direction opposite to the direction indicated by the arrow, the rotational power is transmitted to the shaft 250 via the second belt 272 to rotate the second brush roller 208b, i.e., the gear 252 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow. The gear 258 meshing with the gear 252 rotates the fourth brush roller 210b in the direction indicated by the arrow, which is opposite to the direction in which the second brush roller 208b is rotated. The gear 261 meshing with the non-illustrated gear coupled to the second brush roller 208b rotates the first brush roller 208a in the direction indicated by the arrow, which is opposite to the direction in which the third brush roller 210a is rotated. Therefore, as shown in FIG. 6, the first brush roller pair 204 and the second brush roller pair 206 are rotated to gather dust particles in a central region in the duct 152.

Page 19, first full paragraph:

As described above, when the drive shaft 262 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow in FIG. 12, the rotational power of the drive shaft 262 is transmitted to the gear 258 via the first belt 258, since the one-way clutch 259 in the second pulley 260 can transmit the rotational power to the shaft 256. At this time, the first belt 270 and the second belt 272 are rotated in the same direction. However, the one-way clutch 253 in the first pulley 254 does not transmit the rotational power from the second belt 272 to the shaft 254. Therefore, the rotational power of the drive shaft 262 is not transmitted to the gear 252. When the drive shaft 262 is

rotated in the direction opposite to the direction indicated by the arrow, the rotational power of the drive shaft 262 is transmitted to the gear 252 via the second belt 272 and the gear 252 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow, since the one-way clutch 253 in the first pulley 254 can transmit the rotational power to the shaft 250. Thus, the gear 258 meshing with the gear 252 is also rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow. The one-way clutches 253, 259 incorporated in the first and second pulleys 254, 260 prevent the first brush roller 208a, the second brush roller 208b, the third brush roller 210a, and the fourth brush roller 210b from rotating in directions opposite to the directions indicated by the arrows regardless of the rotational direction of the drive shaft 262.

Page 20, first and second full paragraphs:

FIG. 13 shows in perspective an assembly of the first and second brush roller pairs 204, 206 and the drive means 240 according to another embodiment of the present invention. Those parts of the assembly which are identical to those shown in FIG. 12 are denoted by identical reference characters, and will not be described in detail below. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 13, a single pulley 300 is mounted on the drive shaft 262, a pulley 254 which incorporates a one-way clutch 253 is mounted on the shaft 250, and a pulley 260 which incorporates a one-way clutch 259 is mounted on the shaft 256. A belt 302 is trained around the pulleys 254, 260, 300.

When the drive shaft 262 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow in FIG. 13, the belt 302 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow via the pulley 300. The rotational power of the belt 302 is transmitted to the gear 258, since the one-way clutch 259 in the pulley ~~[[206]]~~ 260 transmit the rotational power to the shaft 256. Thus, the gear 258, the gear 252 in mesh with the gear 258, the first brush roller 208a, the second brush roller 208b, the third brush roller 210a, and the fourth brush roller 210b are rotated in the directions indicated by the arrows, respectively. At this time, the one-way clutch 253 in the pulley 254 does not transmit the rotational power to the shaft 250.

Page 21, first full paragraph:

When the drive shaft 262 is rotated in the reverse direction, i.e., in the direction opposite to the direction indicated by the arrow, the rotational power of the pulley 300 is transmitted to the shaft 250, since the one-way clutch 253 in the pulley 254 transmits the rotational power to the shaft 250. Thus, the gear 252 is rotated, and the gear 258 in mesh with the gear 252 is rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow. As a result, the first brush roller 208a, the second brush roller 208b, the third brush roller 210a, the fourth brush roller 210b are rotated in the directions indicated by the arrows, respectively.